Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity

Full Membership Meeting Tuesday 1:30 PM, Oct 19, 2021
Via Zoom: https://virginiatech.zoom.us/j/85993260778

MEETING MINUTES

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT & LABOR RECOGNITION

Virginia Tech acknowledges that we live and work on the Tutelo / Monacan People’s homeland and we recognize their continued relationships with their lands and waterways. We further acknowledge that legislation and practices like the Morrill Act (1862) enabled the commonwealth of Virginia to finance and found Virginia Tech through the forced removal of Native Nations from their lands, both locally and in western territories.

We understand that honoring Native Peoples without explicit material commitments falls short of our institutional responsibilities. Through sustained, transparent, and meaningful engagement with the Tutelo / Monacan Peoples, and other Native Nations, we commit to changing the trajectory of Virginia Tech’s history by increasing Indigenous student, staff, and faculty recruitment and retention, diversifying course offerings, and meeting the growing needs of all Virginia tribes and supporting their sovereignty.

We must also recognize that enslaved Black people generated revenue and resources used to establish Virginia Tech and were prohibited from attending until 1953. Through InclusiveVT, the institutional and individual commitment to Ut Prosim (that I may serve) in the spirit of community, diversity, and excellence, we commit to advancing a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive community.

Attendance

Gabby McCollum - Hispanic/Latinx Caucus
Christa Miller- Disability Caucus and Alliance
Stacey Wilkerson- Support/OID
LaTawyna Burleson- Appalachian Caucus
Annabelle Fuselier- Black Caucus / Faculty Staff at Large
Nina Ha- APIDA Caucus
Florence Adamo - Ex Officio / proxy for HR
Dr. Menah Pratt-Clarke - Ex Officio / VP for Strategic Affairs and Diversity
Pamela Vickers - Ex Officio / Director of ADA Jimmy
Lowe - Undergraduate Student Senate Alexandria
Rossi-Alvarez - Graduate Student At Large Tamara
Cherry-Clarke - Women’s Alliance and Caucus Vivian
Yamoah - Cranwell International Center
Anthony Lee Lovelace - All Caucus and Alliance
Mustafa Yasin Kara - Graduate and Professional Student Senate
Kelly Oaks, Equity and Accessibility
1. Meeting called to order
   a. Time: 1:33pm
2. Attendance
   a. Please post on the chat you first, last name, and representation
   b. Absent with notice: Sara Leftwich, Ellen Banks (Proxy: Florence Adamo)
3. Welcome
   a. First year commissioners
4. Approval of previous meeting minutes
   a. September meeting minutes are approved
5. Old Business
   a. Still in search for a vice chair
   b. Policy 1025 working group is still on hold
   a. Prospective Indigenous Research Policy is ongoing (no updates)
6. New Business
   a. University council meeting was cancelled for Oct 18th due to no action items.
   b. Resolution process
      i. Stakeholder presentation
      ii. CEOD Meeting = 1st reading
      iii. CEOD Meeting = 2nd reading & vote
      iv. If approved, Director of Governance Administration (April Myers) sends
          out to 5 upward bodies with a commenting period
      v. Then goes to University Council for 2 readings
      vi. University Council votes at 2nd reading
7. Presentations
   a. Katie Polidoro, Title IX Coordinator and Katie Mey Assistant Director, Gender-
      Based Violence Prevention
      i. Annual reports: https://police.vt.edu/crime-stats.html
8. Other items
   a. Responsibilities as a commissioner
      i. Take information (e.g., items of business, resolutions, etc.) back to the
         constituent group.
      ii. After discussion with their constituent group, representatives should then
          provide feedback to the commission such as any questions, concerns,
          etc.
      iii. Vote with the constituent group in mind, not personal inclinations.
iv. Call for questions.

9. Announcements
   a. Disaggregation of data working group volunteers
      i. Annabelle Fuselier
      ii. Stacey Wilkerson
      iii. Nina Ha
      iv. Kelly Oaks

10. Adjournment
    a. Time: 2:48pm